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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/022,849	12/20/2001	Yasuhiko Tomikawa	HYAE : 129	1513
27890	7590	09/08/2005	EXAMINER	
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP 1330 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20036			YENKE, BRIAN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2614	

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/022,849

Applicant(s)

TOMIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

BRIAN P. YENKE

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE (22 Jul 05)/Amend (27 Jun 05).
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on RCE (22 July 05)/Amendment (22 Jun 05) has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 04 October 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's Arguments

a) Applicant states that Rumreich does not disclose or suggest holding a voltage value at a time when an input chroma signal DC level at a time when an input chroma signal is a null signal.

Examiner's Response

b) The examiner disagrees. As stated in the rejection, Rumreich discloses holding/clamping an input signal to a first reference/voltage level if there is no signal present (i.e. null signal) and when the unselected video input is subsequently selected for processing, the inventive clamping

arrangement will be able to change from unselected to selected mode while keeping the clamped video signal with the DC level limits of the PIP processing channel (col 6, line 46-59). Thus a selected (non-null video signal) can be clamped to the DC reference level derived from the output of the processing channel and an unselected signal can be clamped to the predetermined DC reference level.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rumreich, US 5,841,488.

In considering claims 1-3,

a) the claimed a voltage holding means for holding a voltage value at a time when an input chroma signal is a null signal is met by clamping circuits 100 and 200 (Fig 1) where in the event that a signal is not selected (not present) given that the user can optionally display both (PIP) or only one of the received signals, the signal which is unselected is clamped/held at a predetermined DC reference level (col 2, line 23-33).

b) the claimed an output switch... is met by clamping circuits 100 and 200, where for instance in the circuit 100, in the non-selected mode the output of comparator 120 is coupled to switch 150 via switch 140, where comparator 120 compares the voltage at the input and opens/closes switch

140/150 based upon the CLAMP_REF signal voltage (col 4, line 59 to col 5, line 17). It should be noted that the received composite signals include luminance/chrominance information.

In considering claims 5-6,

The claimed the voltage holding means has a capacitor is met where clamps 100 and 200 utilize the input terminal capacitors 101 and 202, respectively. Rumreich also discloses that when the video signal contains both luminance/chrominance information, the output terminal 102 of capacitor C1 may be coupled to comparator 120 via an optional low pass filter (LPF), where the LPF would comprise a series resistor and shunt capacitor (col 5, line 50-60).

In considering claims 10-11,

The claimed the voltage holding means holds the voltage value during a horizontal sync period (claim 10) and during a vertical sync period (claim 11) is met where the clamping circuits clamp the video signals during the sync tips/pulses of the video signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 4 allowed.
5. Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Yenke whose telephone number is (571)272-7359. The examiner work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 0730-1830 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John W. Miller, can be reached at (571)272-7352.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(571)273-8300

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is
(703)305-HELP.

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For other technical patent information needs, the Patent Assistance Center can be reached through customer service representatives at the above numbers, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST/EDT.

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) allows USPTO customers to retrieve data, check the status of pending actions, and submit information and applications. The tools currently available in the Patent EBC are Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) and the Electronic Filing System (EFS).

PAIR (<http://pair.uspto.gov>) provides customers direct secure access to their own patent

application status information, as well as to general patent information publicly available. EFS allows customers to electronically file patent application documents securely via the Internet. EFS is a system for submitting new utility patent applications and pre-grant publication submissions in electronic publication-ready form. EFS includes software to help customers prepare submissions in extensible Markup Language (XML) format and to assemble the various parts of the application as an electronic submission package. EFS

also allows the submission of Computer Readable Format (CRF) sequence listings for pending biotechnology patent applications, which were filed in paper form.

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B.P.Y.

04 September 2005



BRIAN P. YENKE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614